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Supplemental Amendment

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph on page 3, between lines 30-31 as follows:

FIG. 1A shows an arrangement in which light directed at the surface of the support at an angle which is not sufficient to allow total internal reflection in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 1B shows an arrangement in which total internal reflection (TIR) can be achieved at an interface between a support and a medium in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows the light path of light directed at the support, which has a focal point behind the surface of the support in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 shows an example in which an additional tracking layer is provided in the support which allows the correct alignment of the light with the inclined planes on the surface of the support in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 shows an example where the disc/medium interface is being irradiated by a focused beam generated by an objective lens

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in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 shows an example where the wedge shaped structure has been replaced by a symmetric pyramidal shaped structure in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 shows the same set-up as FIG. 5, however the objective lens has been modified such that a central part lens, which is partly covered by an obstructive mask, provides the light beam eliciting the evanescent-field and is used for the generation of tracking signals in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 shows readout of the support using conventional near field coupling, where the objective lens is in close contact with the optical disc in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 shows an example in which the numerical aperture of objective lens exceeds the critical angle in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9A shows the light path from laser to a disc in which a collimator, a splitter, a mask and an objective are arranged in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

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FIG. 9B shows the return light path from support to detector in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 10A, 10B show an alternative arrangement to the one shown in FIGS. 9A, 9B, in which a dichroic structure or polarization sensitive mask is used instead of an obstructive mask in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 11 shows an arrangement of the surface structure of a disc in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.